GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:849
ANSWERED ON:22.11.2001
DEFECTIVE SUPPLY BY ORDNANCE FACTORY MEDAK
RAGHUNATH JHA

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the quality of mortar ammunition, other ammunitions and barrels which are being supplied to the Army are not of good quality;

(b) whether IMA cadets and their instructor died at Asan firing range in Dehradun recently due to exploding of mortar ammunition as has been brought out in the Dainik Jagaran on November 2, 2001;

(c) whether Ordnance Factory, Medak, has been supplying investment castings of Rifle Factory, Ishapur and that factory has been returning those investment castings `rejecting` the same resulting a loss of Rs. 78.16 lakh but OFMis not accepting the loss on the plea that their quality assurance department had cleared them; and

(d) if so, whether there is any proposal to evaluate the quality of the investment castings being supplied by OFM to Ishapur Rifle Factory and take corrective steps?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES)

(a) No, Sir.

(b) Two Gentlemen Cadets and one Havildar Weapon Training Instructor of IMA, Dehradun died on 1st November, 2001 during firing practice at the Asan Firing Ranges due to premature ignition of a bomb inside the barrel of a 51mm mortar.

(c) Rifle Factory, Ichapore (RFI) received nine types of Investment Castings during June, 1993 to July, 1997 from Ordnance Factory Project, Medak (OFPM). Due to deviations in some of the Investment Castings valued at Rs. 78.16 lakhs, RFI returned them to OFPM. As per existing instructions, OFPM has requested RFI to regularize the rejection in Investment Castings.

(d) The quality of Investment Castings is evaluated.It is expected that with the rectification work done on the Castings at OFPM, the value of rejections will be reduced considerably.